

Congressman Donald Norcross

Donald Norcross is the voice of South Jersey's middle class. He wants to promote our region and grow our economy by fighting for the issues that matter most to working families: good jobs and wages, affordable educational opportunities, health care and retirement security, a strong nation and safe neighborhoods.

Committed to South Jersey

- Donald is South Jersey-born and raised.
 - He grew up in Pennsauken in a middle-class home with his parents and three brothers.
 - His grandparents settled in Williamstown and owned Freitag's Bakery on Kaighn Avenue in Camden.
 - Donald played soccer at Pennsauken High and graduated from Camden County College – at the same time that his mother was earning her degree (but only she had a 4.0 GPA).
 - Donald was a single dad to his first son before meeting his wife Andrea, a cardiac technician at Virtua Hospital.
 - They are now the proud parents of three and grandparents of two. They reside in the Victor Building in Camden – the former home of RCA/Victor and the building where Donald's father had his first job.
 - Donald enjoys spending time down the Jersey Shore, biking, scuba diving, going to concerts at the BB&T Bank Center, spoiling his grandkids, and watching just about anything on the Discovery Channel.
- Donald is an electrician by trade.
 - He worked for years installing power lines in refineries and on the tops of bridges, and later served as an assistant business manager for the local electrician's union – IBEW Local 351.
 - When he started work in 1980, he made \$4.15 an hour.
 - At times, he needed to rely on unemployment and disability insurance to provide for his family.
 - Donald previously led the Southern NJ AFL-CIO, representing the interests of over 85,000 local working men and women. During his tenure, the organization presented over \$400,000 in college scholarships to local students.
 - Under his leadership, the union expanded hiring and apprenticeship programs for women and minorities.
- Donald has led multiple civic efforts to improve quality of life in South Jersey.
 - He is a longtime member and past chairman of the Camden County United Way charity.
 - He ran UOSS, a non-profit organization that connected local families with community resources, built wheelchair ramps for seniors and disabled vets, and offered job training for at-risk young people.
 - He led the successful grassroots effort to bring the Battleship New Jersey home to the Camden Waterfront.

Fighting for Us

- More jobs, better wages
 - Authored the Raise the Wage Act to increase the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour.
 - Pushing for pay equity for women in the workplace by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act.
 - Bringing jobs to South Jersey by supporting critical infrastructure investments like those at the new Port of Paulsboro, high-tech manufacturing businesses such as Holtec International, and upgrades for our region's roads and utilities like the billion dollar "Direct Connection" project along I-295.
 - Advocating for federal investments in a 21st century energy workforce to train workers for new jobs.
- Affordable higher education, less debt
 - Advancing affordable education options through county college partnerships with Rowan and Rutgers Universities.
 - Providing student debt relief by funding federal grant and loan programs and pushing for better financing options for students.
 - Promoting career and technical education options as well as the 'helmets to hardhats' program for veterans.
 - Supporting great public schools for all children and teachers, regardless of zip code.
- High quality health care for women, seniors, and veterans
 - Strongly supporting women's rights and access to quality preventative health care and affordable child care.
 - Strengthening Social Security and Medicare by proposing AARP-approved policies to raise COLAs and cap premium increases for seniors, and opposing privatization attempts.
 - Honoring America's heroes by authoring a bill that gives veterans a choice of where and when they can get health care outside the broken VA system.

- Secure nation, safe neighborhoods
 - Demanding ‘No-Fly, No-Buy’ to stop those on the terror watch list from buying weapons, and other common-sense efforts to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill.
 - Protecting America through successful bipartisan efforts to support the mission of South Jersey’s Joint Base and the vital KC-10 refueling tanker.
 - Voted to reject the dangerous Iran nuclear deal that rewarded a state sponsor of terrorism and enemy to Israel.
 - Awarded by the New Jersey NAACP for ongoing criminal justice reform efforts to keep violent offenders behind bars and provide alternatives for low-risk, underprivileged individuals.
 - Supporting local public safety officials and equipping them with the tools to protect our communities.
 - Advocating for treatment and prevention options to curb opiate abuse in our communities.
- Progressive Values for South Jersey
 - Protecting our environment by preventing drilling off the Jersey Shore, fighting for funds to clean up waste sites across New Jersey, and supporting President Obama’s Climate Action Plan.
 - Advocating for LGBT rights and equality for all those in committed, loving relationships.
 - Safeguarding civil rights and working to increase voter participation by cosponsoring the Voting Rights Advancement Act and visiting Selma, Alabama to mark the 50th anniversary of Dr. King’s historic march.
 - Actively supporting campaign finance reform to restore transparency and integrity to our election system.

Getting Results

- Donald served in the NJ legislature from 2010-14 and distinguished himself as an effective bipartisan reformer.
 - He led significant efforts to create economic growth and attract jobs to South Jersey. Multiple businesses have announced plans to grow thousands of jobs as a result of his advocacy, including Holtec International, which will manufacture parts for nuclear reactors at a new facility on the Camden waterfront.
 - He helped shape the largest reorganization of higher education in NJ history, which will strengthen and grow Rutgers-Camden and Rowan University. Rowan has now established the first medical school in SJ in decades.
 - He authored the historic, bipartisan NJ bail reform law that will help keep violent, dangerous individuals behind bars and allow petty non-violent offenders to avoid discriminatory and unaffordable bail practices.
 - On the Veterans Committee, Donald created a program that helps businesses that are owned by or employ veterans to earn public contracts, and he authored a law to offer in-state tuition for all veterans attending NJ colleges.
 - As a member of the Transportation Committee, he pushed the DOT to finally begin reconstruction of the I-295/Rt 42/Rt 76 interchange, which is employing thousands of workers and will significantly improve regional traffic flow.
 - As part of the Public Schools Committee, he fought for more classroom funding, school construction and repairs, and his advocacy directly led to the construction of public schools like the new Gloucester City Middle School.
 - As chairman of the Law and Public Safety Committee, Donald made updates to NJ’s liquor laws that have directly led to new small businesses like craft breweries and brew pubs opening across the state.
 - Equipped police vehicles with dashboard cameras and empowered public safety officials to impound vehicles used in gun, drug, and human trafficking.
 - Sped the process to rehire laid off police officers, and expanded the use of SLEO’s in county governments.
 - Authored an AARP-supported caregiver’s tax credit to assist those caring for a senior loved one with their expenses.
 - Authored the Common Sense Shared Services Act to responsibly share local employees across towns.
 - Increased local election participation and cut costs by moving school board votes to November, and saved the state \$12M by eliminating the separate 2012 Presidential primary election.
- In his short time in Congress, Donald has continued to make a difference.
 - Secured millions of dollars in federal resources for public safety departments, job training programs, environmental cleanups, housing for veterans, and education and health care resources throughout South Jersey.
 - Successfully inserted a provision into the national defense bill to protect and strengthen NJ’s Joint Base.
 - Passed legislation in the House to rename the Deptford Post Office in honor of local hero Lt. Sal Corma.
 - Passed an amendment to the national energy bill to guard against cybersecurity risks from residential smart meters.
 - Founded a caucus in the House to promote America’s building trades members and businesses that employ them.
 - Appointed as an Assistant Whip by his fellow Democratic caucus members.
 - Serving South Jersey by assisting residents with federal issues, nominating outstanding students to our military service academies, and advocating for federal resources for local governments and non-profit service providers.

- Donald continues to be recognized for his service to our community.
 - Camden County College Distinguished Citizen Award (2009)
 - Boy Scouts of America SJ Chapter Distinguished Citizen Award (2010)
 - NJ Regional Coalition Strategic Partner of the Year (2011)
 - United Way's Alexis du Toqueville Award Recipient (2011)
 - Camden Children's Garden Champion of Children Award (2012)
 - Walter Rand Institute South Jerseyan of the Year (2013)
 - New Jersey Conference of Mayors Legislator of the Year (2013)
 - South Jersey AFL-CIO George E. Norcross, Jr. Humanitarian Award recipient (2013)
 - Nursing Ambassador, Rutgers School of Nursing (2013)
 - G.I. Go Fund Legislator of the Year (2013)
 - Gloucester County NAACP Game Changer Award Recipient (2014)
 - Chabad of Gloucester County Man of the Year (2015)
 - New Jersey NAACP Outstanding Legislator Award (2015)
 - United Way John C. Haas Regional Champion Medal (2015)
 - Congregation Sons of Israel Community Service Award (2015)
- Donald has been endorsed and recognized for reelection by the following organizations.
 - Bernie Sanders for President NJ State Chairman Assemblyman John Wisniewski
 - Hillary Clinton for President NJ State Chairman John Currie and Vice-Chair Lizette Delgado-Polanco
 - Alliance for Retired Americans
 - Burlington County Democratic Committee
 - Camden County Democratic Committee
 - Camden County Federation of Democratic Women
 - Communications Workers of America – New Jersey
 - Gloucester County Democratic Committee
 - South Jersey Young Democrats
 - Southern NJ Building Trades Council
 - Planned Parenthood PAC
 - ‘A’ Grade: National Education Association
 - 100% Score: Alliance for Retired Americans
 - 100% Score: American Association of University Women
 - 100% Score: NARAL Pro Choice America
 - 100% Score: Humane Society of the United States
 - 100% Score: Planned Parenthood